



**LEX AUTOLEASE**

# UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF TECHNOLOGY

## Getting the most from your new vehicle.

Technology is constantly evolving to make motorists' lives safer, more straightforward and pleasant.

Satellite navigation systems, Bluetooth-enabled equipment and DAB digital radios are revolutionising the time we spend driving.

But these innovations can also take some getting used to.

Any driver sitting behind the wheel of a new car or van should initially familiarise themselves with the equipment that's now at their fingertips - and how it can best work for them.

Instruction manuals that come with new vehicles are invaluable tools in the set up process.

### VEHICLES FITTED WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS.

Satellite navigation systems - or sat navs - ensure you get to your destination via the best route.

Whether you're driving for a work meeting or travelling across Europe on holiday, this equipment is often built into cars and vans to make your journey as effortless and safe as possible.

In the first instance, give yourself the time to understand how your new sat nav system works.

When using it for the first time, you might find that it takes you along different roads to those your previous system has guided you along.

This doesn't mean that the system is faulty - it's simply a different way of getting you to your destination.

**Top tip:** Keep an open mind if your new sat nav system takes you a different route to that suggested by the equipment you used previously. The new route is likely to have been recommended for a reason.

### BLUETOOTH-ENABLED CARS AND VANS.

Bluetooth technology has evolved to help drivers keep their eyes on the road by allowing electronic devices to communicate wirelessly.

Many - but not all - new vehicles come with Bluetooth-enabled In Car Entertainment and these can be connected to a smartphone.

The technology enables you to answer calls on your smartphone while on the move without taking a hand off the wheel as well as allowing you to listen to music stored on that device.

While Bluetooth technology has come a long way in the past few years, the sound quality still varies enormously.

And like any new technology, it can take some getting used to.

Sometimes, smartphones don't immediately "communicate" with other Bluetooth devices - so be prepared to spend time with the instruction manual working out exactly how to achieve this.

In addition, Bluetooth technology is evolving quicker among companies making mobile devices than it is with car and van manufacturers.

Consequently, some vehicles may only support older handset technology.

So, if you know that there's a need for a specific brand of smartphone to be linked to a new vehicle's Bluetooth technology, always check that compatibility online before placing your order.

**Top tip:** Most manufacturers now provide a list of the mobile phones that are compatible with their Bluetooth-enabled vehicles on their websites. Research whether your handset is compatible with your new car or van at the earliest opportunity.

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### CARS AND VANS WITH DAB RADIO.

An ever-increasing number of new vehicles are being fitted with DAB radios.

DAB stands for 'Digital Audio Broadcasting' and refers to a way of receiving radio broadcasts via digital signals.

Conventional analogue radios are being slowly phased out in favour of DAB radios which are widely perceived to offer greater clarity.

But DAB radios can occasionally cut out unexpectedly.

This may take the driver of a new vehicle by surprise and result in them thinking that there's a fault with their radio - which normally isn't the case.

Some of the potential causes of DAB radios cutting out include:

- A fault at a nearby transmitter
- Loss of a preset list of stations after a period without use
- Atmospheric interference resulting from high pressure weather conditions

Here's a four-step guide to get your DAB radio working again as quickly as possible:

1. Check to ensure that your aerial (where an external aerial is fitted) is securely attached;
2. Set the radio to 'autotune' or 'scan' to see whether it picks up any stations;
3. Search online to check if the nearest transmitter in the area has a fault or ongoing maintenance work;
4. Some radio manufacturers have helplines - with contact numbers available online - with trained personnel who can guide you through any issues you're experiencing.

**Top tip:** Most vehicles equipped with DAB radios still support 'older' technology - you can still listen to your favourite stations on FM and AM and some DAB radios will automatically re-tune from Digital to FM in poor signal areas.

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### IN SUMMARY

- New technology in vehicles is there to enhance your driving experience throughout a journey - but always adhere to safe driving practices.
- Be prepared to spend time 'getting to grips' with the way new technology works - and work out how it can best assist you.
- The use of a mobile phone handset while driving a vehicle is illegal - but the hands-free function provided by Bluetooth technology offers the chance to stay connected while keeping two hands free to control your vehicle.
- Take time before placing an order for a new vehicle to ensure that the make and model of your mobile phone is compatible with your chosen vehicle.

For further information

call: **0800 389 3690**

email: **customerexperience@lexautolease.co.uk**